

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 MC-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01

ACDA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 PER-03 A-01 /081 W

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O 230935Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7065

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 2498

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, US

SUBJECT: INDIAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS REPORTED U.S. DECISION TO  
ANNOUNCE ARMS SALE TO PAKISTAN AND DELAY IN SAXBE'S  
ARRIVAL.

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE REPORTED RESUMPTION OF ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN  
RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE PLAY IN INDIAN PRESS COVERAGE FEB. 23.  
AMBASSADOR SAXBE'S DELAY IN ARRIVAL WAS ALSO GIVEN PROMINENT PLACE-  
MENT.

STATE-RUN ALL INDIA RADIO/TV DID NOT CARRY THESE NEWS FEB. 22 OR  
FEB. 23 MORNING. END SUMMARY.

1. CREDITED TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WIRE, LEAD FRONT-PAGE REPORTS  
HIGHLIGHTED THAT THE U.S. IS GOING AHEAD WITH THE ARMS SALES TO  
PAKISTAN. A TYPICAL HEADLINE: "U.S. PROCEEDING WITH ARMS SALE  
TO PINDI" (TIMES OF INDIA).

2. LEADING WITH THE "LIMITED" CASH SALE OF DEFENSIVE MILITARY  
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EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN, THE NEWS DISPATCHES HIGHLIGHTED THAT A FORMAL

ANNOUNCEMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE EARLY NEXT WEEK, ACCORDING TO U.S. OFFICIALS.

3. REPORTAGE MENTIONED THAT AMERICAN AUTHORITIES TOOK "A COOL VIEW" OF THE EFFECT THE RESUMPTION OF ARMS SALES WOULD HAVE ON THE U.S. RELATIONS WITH INDIA. THE NEWS DISPATCHES ADDED THAT " MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER," SOME OFFICIALS ARE SAYING THAT IF INDIA CHOOSES TO BECOME "EMOTIONAL OVER THIS ISSUE, THAT WILL BE UNFORTUNATE." NEWSPAPERS NOTED U.S. CLAIM THAT ITS ACTIONS SHOULD NOT TOUCH OFF AN ARMS RACE AND ITS HOPE THAT INDO-PAKISTANI RECONCILIATION PROCESS WOULD CONTINUE.

4. BASED ON THE AP STORY, THE CONGRESS PARTY-ORIENTED NATIONAL HERALD RAN A LENGTHY EDITORIAL, "BHUTTO WINS HIS POINT." THE EDITORIAL CONDEMNED THE "U.S. BOAST THAT IT WAS THE ONLY BIG POWER THAT HAD FOR MANY YEARS REFUSED TO SELL ARMS ON THE SUB-CONTINENT" BECAUSE "ITS RECORD IN THE MATTER IS ALTOGETHER DEPLORABLE ."

IT FURTHER ADDED THAT THE "WASHINGTON MYTH" ABOUT THE "PROPOSED SUPPLIES BEING STRICTLY IN THE NATURE OF CASH SALES WILL FOOL NOBODY."

IN THE CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH, THE ADITORIAL ATTACKED THE U.S. FOR ITS "TYPICALCAPITALIST ECONOMY" WHICH "RELIES FOR ITS AFFLUENCE ON THE ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY." IT CONCLUDED: "THE SUPPLY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN FITS NEATLY INTO THIS HORRENDOUS PATTERN. IS THIS HOW TH E U.S. PROPOSES TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND PROMOTE PEACE?"

5. COMMENTING ON AMBASSADOR SAXBE'S DELAYED ARRIVAL, THE FRONT-PAGE NEWS ITEMS STRESSED THAT THE POSTPONEMENT COMES IN THE WAKE OF REPORTS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS PLANNING TO RESUME THE SALE OF LETHAL WEAPONS TO PAKISTAN.

6. MOSTLY WRITTEN BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS, THE DISPATCHES SPECULATED THAT BY STAYING BACK IN BANGKOK, AMBASSADOR SAXBE IS TRYING TO INFLUENCE THE FORD ADMINISTRATION. G.K. REDDY, BUREAU CHIEF OF THE INFLUENTIAL HINDU, REPORTED: "HE IS STAYING ON IT BANGKOK FOR A FEW MORE DAYS PENDING THE OUTCOME OF HIS LAST-MINUTE EFFORTS TO DISSUADE PRESIDENT FORD FORM GOING AHEAD WITH THE IMPENDIN G

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESUMPTION OF AMERICAN ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN." HE ADDED MR. SAXBE IS ALSO "DELAYING HIS ARRIVAL TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH THE BEHAVIOR OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT."

7. WRITERS UNDERSCORED THAT AMBASSADOR SAXBE DENIED A REPORT BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI THAT HE WAS BEING TREATED IN BANKOK FOR SOME AILMENT. "HE SAID HIS ARRIVAL IN INDIA HAS BEEN DELAYED BUT NOT BY HIS ILLNESS."

8. QUOTING AMBASSADOR SAXBE ("WE ARE JUST GOING TO STAY HERE FOR FOUR OR FIVE DAYS. MAYBE, THEN WE ARE GOING ON."), REPORTS ADDED: "THE STATEMENT HAS GIVEN RISE TO SPECULATION IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES THAT HE MIGHT NOT COME TO INDIA FOR SOME TIME."

9. ALL REPORTS NOTED THAT THE POSTPONEMENT HAS CAUSED SURPRISE IN NEW DELHI DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES. ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL HERALD, THE DEVELOPMENT "PLACES MR. SAXBE'S MISSION INTO DIFFICULTY" BECAUSE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S "KEEN DESIRE TO FOSTER CLOSER INDO-U.S. RELATIONS." THE RIGHTIST MOTHERLAND MAINTAINED THAT AS A RESULT OF "THE AMERICAN DISPLEASURE" WITH INDIA, THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IS "UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE DECIDED" THAT MR. CHAVAN "TOO SHOULD PUT OFF HIS VISIT TO MAKE THE INDIAN DISAPPROVAL OF THE ARMS SALE CLEAR."

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